**REMARKS/ARGUMENTS** 

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended, is respectfully

requested.

By the present Preliminary Amendment claims 1-22 are canceled without prejudice

and new claims 23-38 are presented for examination. New claims 23-38 are deemed to be

self-evident from the original disclosure, including the original claims, and thus are not

deemed to raise any issues of new matter.

The present application is believed to be in condition for a full and thorough

examination on the merits. An early and favorable consideration of the present application is

hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.

Customer Number

22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000 Fax: (703) 413 -2220

(OSMMN 06/04)

Gregory J. Maier Attorney of Record

Registration No. 25,599

Surinder Sachar

Registration No. 34,423

GJM:SNS\la I:\att\\SNS\281176us-pr.doc